

trunion disposed within a bracket which has a circular flange bushings. This creates a high friction connection that is subject to binding, especially in corrosive environments.

Paredes discloses a damper unit with damper blades supported on a frame by rotational bearings positioned between a pair of end collars (Column 2, lines 41-43). However, nowhere does Paredes disclose or suggest interconnecting vanes of a damper unit using the novel trunion and bracket assembly claimed in the present application. Indeed, nowhere in Paredes is there any disclosure or suggestion of interconnecting the vanes of a damper unit using brackets and trunions. Moreover, Paredes teaches against such interconnectivity in that Paredes only discloses controlling the vane by the shafts. (Column 2, lines 43-46).

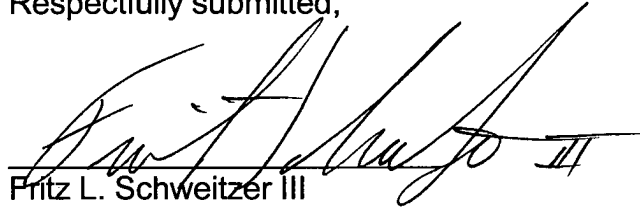
No proper combination of Josephson and Paredes would result in the claimed invention. If Josephson and Paredes were properly combined the result would be a damper unit with interconnected blades, which blades are rotationally mounted on a frame with rotational bearings positioned between end collars. However, the combination would not result in the claimed invention.

To render a claim obvious, prior art references must provide a teaching, suggestion or motivation to combine the elements found in the separate patent references (if indeed the elements are present in the patent references). As set forth above, all of the elements of the claimed invention are not present in the cited patent references, and there is no motivation, suggestion or teaching in the references to make such a combination. Further, in performing a non-obvious analysis, it is improper to pick and choose individual elements from separate patent references. To manufacture the claimed invention from the cited references, it would be necessary transmute the bearings and collars supporting the blades found in Paredes into wholly different bearing-supported trunions of the

claimed structure. At best, this would require the improper hind-sight application of the teachings afforded by the present invention.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Therefore, the applicant requests that the claims be reconsidered and allowed.

Respectfully submitted,




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